

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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February 24, 2004

**FROM:** KEN A. MILLER, Director  
Department of Public Works - **Solid Waste Management Division**

**SUBJECT: PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE DEBRIS REMOVAL PROGRAM AND  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approve plans and specifications for the debris removal from areas impacted by the fires of October and November 2003; and
2. Authorize the Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) to advertise for competitive bids for the debris removal program.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** On October 21, 2003, the Grand Prix Fire erupted in the northern portion of the City of Fontana and eventually burned over 59,488 acres, destroyed at least 135 residential structures and 1 commercial structure, and damaged another 71 residential structures and an unknown number of vehicles. On October 25, 2003, a second fire known as the Old Fire began in Waterman Canyon and quickly spread to 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Streets in San Bernardino, and into the City of Highland and the mountain and desert communities of the County of San Bernardino. This fire burned over 91,281 acres and destroyed approximately 993 residential structures, 10 commercial structures, and an unknown number of vehicles. A total of approximately 1,200 residential homes (the unincorporated areas and cities of the County) were either destroyed or damaged as the result of these two fires.

In the aftermath of these fires, the County has developed a plan to facilitate widespread cost-effective debris removal for the County's unincorporated area, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 16, 2003. The program involves blocking impacted neighborhoods for the ultimate purpose of cost-effectively removing, transporting and disposing of fire debris. The homeowner will pay for the cost of the debris removal on their property and the cost of the transportation and disposal of non FEMA eligible debris, with FEMA and State funds being used to pay for storage, trucking and tipping fees of the debris once it is in the road right-of-way, or other approved location. There is a possibility that FEMA funds can be used to remove the debris from private properties as well, where a public health hazard exists and where prior federal approval has been obtained. Staff is currently exploring this issue and will incorporate such a feature into the program if possible.

On January 13, 2004, the Board approved a contract with PBS&J for coordination and monitoring of debris cleanup within the County's unincorporated area damaged by the Grand Prix and Old Fires. Approval of the above recommendations would allow SWMD to seek bids from separate contractors to perform the actual debris removal from the fire-damaged areas.

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The fire-damaged areas have been divided into six geographic contract areas. The bid package is organized into two components: 1) the first component will contain separate bids relating to a potential contract with each homeowner to remove debris from the homeowner's private property to the public right-of-way and to dispose of non-FEMA eligible waste; and 2) the second component will contain a bid on a per ton basis relating to the removal of FEMA eligible debris from the public right-of-way to an appropriate recycling or disposal location. The bids will be evaluated as to each of the six geographic contract areas, thus there may be different successful bidders for each area.

Advertisement for competitive bids is proposed for February 24, 2004, with bids due March 25, 2004. Award of contract presented to the Board (for the second component only) as to each of the six geographic areas is anticipated for March 30, 2004, and start of project within 10 to 14 calendar days thereafter.

At present, the final potential program participant information is still being generated (this list will set forth the homeowners who have indicated an interest in receiving a bid for the clean up of their property and disposal of non-FEMA eligible waste). Bidding contractors will be given a full list of impacted private properties within each contract area.

Upon the opening of the bids, all potentially participating homeowners will be notified, and afforded an opportunity to review the bids. Following County staff's identification of the responsible and responsive bidder with the lowest priced bid within each geographic contract area, the homeowners will have an opportunity to reject, negotiate or accept the successful bidder's bid relating to his or her property. The successful bidder will then be responsible for entering into separate contracts with each private property owner who desires to enter into a contract for the clean up of all fire debris and disposal of non-FEMA eligible waste related to the homeowner's property (contingent upon the award of a contract to the successful bidder by the County for the second component).

Plans and specifications for this debris removal program are on file in the SWMD office.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS:** This item was reviewed by Deputy County Counsel Robert Jocks (387-5435) on February 5, 2004 and County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst, 387-4635) on February 11, 2004.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** There is no financial impact from approving the plans and specifications and advertising for the project. The impending contract will identify the costs of this project. These costs, which will initially be funded by SWMD, are 100% eligible for State and Federal reimbursement.

**COST REDUCTION REVIEW:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the department's proposal and recommends this action based on the following: The debris resulting from the recent Grand Prix and Old Fires requires removal, and an organized cleanup program is deemed as the best approach to reduce costs for both the private property owner and the County.

**SUPERVISORAL DISTRICT:** All

**PRESENTER:** Peter H. Wulfman, 386-8703

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